



**Rock Lobster industry acts for the environment
5 July 2004**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold today commended the South Australian Rock Lobster industry (SARLAC) for moves to discontinue the use of plastic strapping and waxed cartons in the supply of bait.

The plastic strapping becomes entangled around the necks of seals, while waxed cartons are difficult to recycle and will not be accepted by some recycling companies.

Mrs Penfold said the industry is seeking to implement the use of a non-waxed, self-locking carton that does not require plastic straps.

SARLAC executive officer Roger Edwards said that over the past few years the industry has worked toward reducing its impact on the marine environment and is now seeking to solve an ongoing issue.

He said the traditional bait cartons no longer meet the new environmental standards developed by the industry and which are required by legislation under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Much of the bait supplied to the rock lobster industry is imported, predominately from New Zealand, therefore SARLAC is negotiating solutions with bait suppliers and processors.

SARLAC is working with SeaNet, an environmental extension service to the Australian seafood industry.